

**BALLAST WITH LOAD-ADAPTABLE FAULT DETECTION CIRCUIT****Abstract of the Disclosure**

5 A ballast (10) for powering a gas discharge lamp load (30) comprises an inverter (100), an output circuit (200), and a fault detection circuit (300). During operation, fault detection circuit (300) monitors a first signal and a second signal within output circuit (300) and sets a fault threshold in dependence on the second signal. The second signal is indicative of the type of lamps in the load (30). In response to the first signal exceeding the fault  
10 threshold, fault detection circuit (300) issues a shutdown command directing the inverter (100) to cease operation.